Dear Mrs. [redacted]

Your brother, Joel, is in a very bad state. It appears that he's trying to drink himself to death. Some of the other prisoners have told me if someone doesn't help him soon, they don't think he'll last much longer. There have also been rumors that he&s tried to cut his wrists.

At different times he told his defense attorney Victor Velasquez and me the same thing. "I wish I could talk but I can't." From his behavior it appears he prefers to die - and it also appears that your Uncle Jack isn't doing anything that we know of to help him as he said he would.

I've been told.

However, there are two ways Joel can be helped. That is, if he wants to be. First of all, even the warden told me anyone with money could buy his way out and he never understood why Joel hasn't tried! He said it must be a political reason. Well, the talk among the prisoners is that it costs 80,000 dollars to get out.

The other way is a lot less expensive, legal and longer. I just spoke with Velasquez and he said that he hasn't been paid by your Uncle Jack, not even for Court, filing and other fees since your Mother passed away. I told this to Ezra and he said it was just something "someone had overlooked!" I told it to Begger and he seemed shocked saying "Jack wouldn't do a thing like that, I'll tell him at once." It's boiled down to where Jack has written Velasquez to itemize his expenses - as if to say, if we need you any further, we'll let you know. This brings us to the second way to help Joel.

Velasquez can file for a rehearing based on new evidence. But he said even though he'd forego the fee he can't lay out any more money. In order to institute this new procedure he'll need at least 5,000 dollars which I know sounds like a lot, but there's a lot of people to be paid off, etc. I'm writing this part to your Uncle Jack thru Berlack, who "allows" me to ask questions which he either doesn't answer or gets around - and if he doesn't volunteer the money, I'll plainly insinuate that it appears as though he wants his nephew to stay in jail. I intend writing this to Nizer too, enclosing a news story quoting him as saying Joel isn't guilty and that he'd do anything he could to help him. What he actually said and what I didn't write because I didn't want any more doors slamming, is that he'd help Joel even if he had to go to the State Department!

I don't know if you have ever written to Joel, but if you can for no other reason than moral support it might help him hang on. God only knows what he's afraid to talk about, but he once did tell me "if you knew something pretty horrible that you couldn't prove your own innocence of, would you tell it?"

Do you know an attorney named Sheldon Elsen? He's been to see Joel of late and it might be that he's replaced Bobick. I really don't know.

If your uncle fails to come across with the money for the appeal, can you possibly raise it?

Whatever information or ideas you have in general, please remember everything will be confidential.

Sincerely,

Pearl Gonzalez

Pearl Gonzalez

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